



Minnesota Gerontological Society

Bridging the gap in Minnesota between research and practice in the field of aging, with special emphasis on developing and supporting tomorrow's leaders

News Bulletin

Offering updates in the field of Gerontology and information about MGS for its members

September 2010

MGS Webinar Presenters Sought

MGS invites members to consider being a presenter and/or suggesting topics for future webinars. MGS sponsors five webinars a year, each one hour long, and usually over a lunch hour. The purpose of the webinars is to highlight research relevant to practice issues in aging, and to identify areas of practice where evidence-based information can improve effectiveness of services for the elderly. For researchers, students, educators and others with relevant research to be shared, the webinars provide a way for awareness building of results, including information posted on MGS website after the webinar. For those involved in services to older adults, the webinars provide a way to highlight some of the critical issues which demand further research in order to improve existing and future services. Interested in presenting or have a topic to suggest, contact Elaine Carlson ecarlson@mngero.org.

Eldercare Rights Alliance Film Festival

The Eldercare Rights Alliance and MAGEC are hosting a full-day program featuring movies and discussions on a wide range of topics relating to care of Minnesota's seniors and vulnerable adults. Join moderator Jim Vanden Bosch from Terra Nova films on Friday, September 10 from 8:30 – 3. \$50 fee includes light breakfast, lunch and snacks. \$30 for students and seniors. CEUs and Administrator Clock Hours are available. For more information visit www.eldercarerights.org.

Northern Plains Conference on Aging & Disability

September 28-30, 2010, Ramada Plaza Suites, Fargo, ND

The Northern Plains Conference on Aging and Disability is a preeminent event designed to bring together elders, the general public, and professionals who share a common interest in the graying of the Northern Plains. Public and private agencies and organizations of every category are seeing the wisdom of working together in service delivery. The conference focuses on trends, policy, technology and self-determination. It plays an important role in facilitating meaningful dialog between professionals and consumers. Elders and persons with disabilities are playing a growing role in advocating for more responsive methods of service delivery and economic development. For more information visit <http://www.northernplainsconference.com>.

Upcoming Webinar on Promoting Mental Health and Preventing Suicide among Older Adults

September 14, 2010 from 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM

Older adults die by suicide at a higher rate than the national average. Every year, more than 5,000 Americans over the age of 65 die by suicide, a death toll that is largely preventable. Elderly white men have the highest rate of suicide of all demographic groups in the U.S. Although suicide rates of older Americans have been slowly declining for many years, older men and women of every race continue to die by suicide, and the need for prevention is urgent. This webinar reviews the research associated with suicide among older adults, including risk and protective factors and effective suicide prevention strategies. In addition, this webinar will specifically address the issue of suicide risk and prevention in the context of community programs and residential facilities. More information can be obtained at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/212444497>.

MGS Member Honored for Creating a New Model of Care for People with Dementia

For Judy Berry's courage to create a new model of care for those suffering from dementia—and for never turning someone away because of an inability to pay—she has been named one of 10 recipients of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Community Health Leaders Award, which honors exceptional men and women who have overcome significant obstacles to tackle some of the most challenging health and health care problems facing their communities. Berry received the award during a ceremony at the Foundation in Princeton, N.J., on August 12.

Grants Available for Disability Studies

The National Science Foundation invites research proposals that will lead to new technology, devices, or software that will benefit persons with disabilities. Research may be directed toward the characterization, restoration, and/or substitution of human functional abilities or cognition, or the interaction of persons with disabilities and their environment. Applications will be accepted from August 15 through September 23. For more information visit www.nsf.gov/funding.

Postdoctoral Scholars Program to Focus on Population Health

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health & Society Scholars program provides two years of support to postdoctoral scholars at all stages of their careers to build the nation's capacity of research and leadership to address the multiple determinants of population health and contribute to policy change. The program is based on the principle that progress in the field of population health depends upon multidisciplinary collaboration and exchange. Up to 18 scholars will be selected for two-year appointments beginning the fall of 2011. Scholars will receive an annual stipend of \$89,000. The application deadline is October 1. Visit www.healthandsocietyscholars.org for complete details.

Appointments to Gerontological Society of America Office Positions

The national Gerontological Society of America (www.geron.org) recently held elections for Officers. University of Minnesota School of Nursing faculty member Donna Bliss, PhD, RN, FAAN is Chair-Elect for the Health Sciences Section and MGS Keynote Speaker Nina Silverstein, PhD, is the Chair-Elect for the Social Research, Policy, and Practice Section.

New Site Tracks Health Care Reform Implementation

The George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation have teamed for a new resource, Health Reform GPS. It is a web-based tool that

offers information and insights related to implementation of the new health care reform law. Users will be able to comment on the information posted. For more information, visit www.healthreformgps.org.

September 18 Is National HIV/AIDS & Aging Awareness Day

The third annual National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day (NHAAAD) will be held on September 18, 2010. NHAAAD focuses on the challenging issues facing the aging population with regards to HIV prevention, testing, care, and treatment. This year's campaign theme, Aging is a part of life; HIV doesn't have to be, illustrates the need to promote HIV prevention, education and testing among older Americans, who are frequently ignored when it comes to diagnoses. To learn more about AIDS and older Americans, visit <http://www.aids.gov/> or www.TheAIDSinstitute.org.

MGS Keynote and Pioneer in Aging Robert Butler, MD

Dr. Robert Butler, a psychiatrist who was widely regarded as "the father of geriatrics" and who spent a career working to change the way society views and treats the elderly, died in July at 83. He worked until three days before his death from acute leukemia. Dr. Butler's contribution to aging research and public policy was seminal and profound, and all who are elderly, or who someday will be, are the beneficiaries of his life and work. Calling aging "the neglected stepchild of the human life cycle," Dr. Butler coined the word "ageism" and helped overturn ingrained conceptions of the old, including that they have little to contribute to society and that senility is an inevitable outgrowth of aging.

HeLP MN Seniors Program Reception

MGS members are invited to a special reception to celebrate the success of the HeLP MN Seniors program. Developed by the Minnesota Health Literacy Partnership and the University of Minnesota's Health Sciences Libraries, this evidence-based training program focuses on empowering seniors to communicate with their doctors and to find reliable and accurate health information on the Internet. The event will take place on Wednesday, September 15th from 4:00pm - 5:30pm at Boutwells Landing in Oak Park Heights. This will be an opportunity to network with health literacy, aging, public health and community leaders. Your presence will add to this event. We're excited about this gathering and hope you can join us. For more information contact phconsult@hotmail.com.

Wilder Foundation Launches Support Group for Adult Children Caring for Aging Parents

Adult children face special issues when caring for aging parents. Meet with a licensed social worker and others who share this challenge and learn how to work with your family to make good decisions, develop caregiving skills and find resources that will make everybody's life more manageable. The group meets the third Wednesday of each month from 6 -7:30 PM starting August 18 at Wilder Center, 451 N. Lexington (near Lexington and University Avenue) in St. Paul. Free parking. Refreshments served. No registration required. Free of charge. For more information, call Barb Cooley, LSW, Wilder Foundation, 651-280-2538.



The Minnesota Gerontological Society (MGS) offers this free Bulletin to its members. To submit items contact mgs@mngero.org. Inclusion in the newsletter does not necessarily mean endorsement by MGS staff or Board. MGS' Bulletin is edited by Rajean P. Moore, PHD.